

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR BEGINS
CAMPAIGN TO ORGANIZE STOCKYARDS

THE DAY BOOK

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CABINET MINISTER ENDORES DAY BOOK'S STAND ON LOW WAGES PROBLEM

*Secretary of Commerce Redfield, in Signed Articles,
Declares Starvation Wages, by Creating Bad
Home Conditions, Do Cause the Fall
of Underpaid Working Girls.*

Washington, April 23.—Secretary of Commerce Redfield today made public for the first time his views on the relation between low wages and fallen women. His statement follows:

BY WILLIAM C. REDFIELD,

Secretary of Commerce.

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I have been intensely interested in statements that have appeared in the public press in the course of discussion of the causes of immorality, some alleging that low wages themselves are an incentive to vice, and others, at the opposite extreme, saying that low wages have nothing to do with the vice question.

There seems to be a truth lying somewhere between these two extremes.

Of course, lack of virtue is not a mathematical equation. The declaration that an insufficient wage is OF ITSELF a temptation to wrong-doing is IN ITSELF untrue. It is not a case of so few dollars and so much vice, nor of so many more dollars and so much less vice. It is absurd to say that any mere difference in wages—OF ITSELF ALONE—is the cause of misdoing.

The vast majority, aye, many more than the mere majority of women and men, however humble their means and however hard their privations, are wholesome and pure in life.

The strength of character which most working girls show under difficult circumstances puts them among those who do the nation honor.

On the other hand, suppose a girl who has to work for self-support is so obliged to pinch to keep her body and soul together as to be deprived of all wholesome amusement or recreation!

All work and no play—and very ill—